

Lake Michigan Coastal Program 2003 grant applications due by March 31.

It's time to start turning plans and goals in Northwest Indiana into reality. As the Lake Michigan Coastal Program moves into a new phase, it is the time for government agencies, education institutions, and others to apply for funds to finance projects that protect and restore natural, cultural and historical resources in Indiana's Lake Michigan coastal region.

Indiana received \$1.17 million for 2003 from the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration as a participant in the federal Coastal Zone Management Program. Approximately \$640,000 of this funding is still available for grants and is available to state and local entities for projects meeting the program criteria. The DNR's Lake Michigan Coastal Program will administer the grants.

The purpose of the Lake Michigan Coastal Program is to support partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies and local organizations for the protection and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources in the Lake Michigan region.

Through the coastal program, Indiana participates in the federal coastal management program with 33 other coastal states and territories to protect, restore, and responsibly develop Indiana's coastal area.

The funding for Round II of the 2003 funding cycle is comprised of two components - \$600,000 for large scale project grants (maximum award of \$100,000 each), and small scale, short-term non-construction grants (maximum award of \$5,000 each.)

Applications for project funding are due to the DNR's Division of Soil Conservation, LMCP by **March 31, 2004** for 2003 Round II grants. The LMCP will begin accepting applications **February 20, 2004**. There will be a grant workshop Wednesday **February 25** at the Indiana Dunes State Park Nature Center from 9:00 and 11:00 AM.

Large Scale Grant Funds:

Eligible Applicants: Those eligible to apply for Large Scale Grant funds include:

- units of local government, such as municipalities, townships, counties, and towns;
- area-wide agencies, including county and regional planning agencies;
- state agencies;
- state colleges, universities, and other state institutions of higher learning;
- conservancy districts and port authorities; and
- basin commissions
- Nonprofit organizations (501(c)3) (certain conditions apply)

Eligible Projects: Must be located entirely in the northern portion of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the project will have direct substantial benefits within the coastal region. Large scale projects must be completed within 18 months from date of approval.

For a map of the grant area, point your web browser to: www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/pdf/cpa.pdf

The following are examples of the kind projects that are eligible for funding:

- wetland restoration and protection;
- restoration and protection of corridors along rivers, streams, and lakes;
- restoration and protection of coastal natural resources;
- stormwater management and control;
- conservation buffers;
- restoration of natural hydrologic functions of rivers and streams;
- contaminated site clean-up; and
- planning for coastal resource protection, restoration, or management.

Small Scale Grant Funds:

Eligible Applicants: Eligible applicants are the same as Large Scale Grant Funds.

Eligible Projects: Small scale project grants must be located entirely in the Coastal Region, unless the applicant can demonstrate that the project will have direct substantial benefits within the coastal region.

Small scale grant projects must fit into one of two categories:

- (1) Outreach and Education – includes projects such as public participation processes, informational kiosks, symposiums, conferences, outreach projects, etc.
- (2) Resource Management – includes projects that aide with management of natural, cultural, or historic resources; such as: GIS data collection/compilation, aerial photography, land use planning, resource management plans, and other short-term projects that aide with better resource management.

Small scale grants must be completed within 6 months time, and be matched 1:1 with non-federal funds. Application materials will available online after February 20, 2004.

Please see <http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich/grants/coastalgrants.html> for additional information or email coastal@dnr.state.in.us for application forms.

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